



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/666,860

09/17/2003

Hisashi Tsukamoto

Q137-US3

8449

31815 7590 06/06/2008
MARY ELIZABETH BUSH
QUALLION LLC
P.O. BOX 923127
SYLMAR, CA 91392-3127

EXAMINER

LEE, CYNTHIA K

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1795

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

06/06/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/666,860

Applicant(s)

TSUKAMOTO ET AL.

Examiner

CYNTHIA LEE

Art Unit

1795

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 March 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 20-28 and 78-83 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 20-28 and 78-83 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 26 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/S5108)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/26/2008
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Response to Amendment

This Office Action is responsive to the amendment filed on 3/26/2008.

The Objection to the claims is withdrawn.

The 35 USC 112, 2nd rejection has been withdrawn.

Claims 20-28, 78-83 are pending. Claims 20-28,67,78-83 are finally rejected for reasons necessitated by Applicant's amendment.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed 3/26/2008 has been placed in the application file and the information referred to therein has been considered.

Double Patenting

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 20-28,67,78,79,80-83 provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 69-73 and 76-79 of copending Application No. 10/665440. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because claims 69-73 and 76-79 of the copending application contain all the limitations of claims of the instant application. Claims 20-28,67,78,79,80-83 of the instant application therefore are not patentably distinct from the copending claim and as such is unpatentable for obviousness-type double patenting.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 20, 22-25, 67, 78-82 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McHenry (US 3510353).

Refer to the Figure of McHenry. McHenry discloses a method of constructing an electric storage battery, comprising connecting a first end of a first electrode strip(17) to a pin (14); positioning a mandrel (tube 12 and the plastic tubing 13) on the pin; winding the first electrode strip together with a second electrode strip so as to form a spiral roll

having at least a portion of the pin within the spiral roll, the spiral roll being formed after positioning the mandrel on the pin (2:31-36). The electrodes are rolled around the pin and the mandril (2:35-36).

Regarding claim 22, the plastic tubing 13 is in physical contact with the pin 14, and thus the mandrel is in electrical communication with the pin.

Regarding claim 24, McHenry discloses an end cap (16) is positioned on the pin (14), the end cap being configured to serve as a cap for a battery case, the end cap including an electrical insulator (15), the pin extending through the insulator.

Regarding claim 25, the end cap includes a conductive member (11) (2:11-15). The cap (11) connects the conductive member to a case (21) such that the conducting member is in electrical communication with the case and the pin extends into an interior of the case.

The tube 12 is crimped at several positions along its length to effect the seal between the wire and the tube 12 (applicant's claim 67) (2:20-22).

Regarding claims 78 and 79, refer to the pin (14) and a mandrel (12 and 13) in the figure.

Regarding claim 81, a sleeve 13 is inserted in the metal tube and the positive electrode wire contact 14 fits within the plastic tubing (2:17-18).

Regarding claim 20, the electrode and a pin are in communication via the tab 18. McHenry does not disclose that the first electrode and the second electrode are wound together after providing electrical communication between the first electrode and the pin (Applicant's claim 20). McHenry discloses that the electrodes are placed around the

crimped tube. The wire is then bent and attached to the tab (18) (2:61-63). The process as a whole would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made because the courts have upheld that the selection of any order of performing process steps is *prima facie* obvious in the absence of new or unexpected results. *In re Burhans*, 154 F2d. 690, 69 USPQ 330 (CCPA 1946). It is noted that absent specific limitation regarding which portion of the winding process the electrical communication is made between the first electrode and the pin, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to attach the tab after being partially wound or fully wound because either method would achieve the connection between the electrode and the pin, and such a selection of any order of the process is *prima facie* obvious.

Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McHenry (US 3510353) as applied to claim 20, in view of Chang (US 4863815).

McHenry discloses all the elements of claim 20 and are incorporated herein. McHenry discloses that the pin extends through the insulator 15, but does not disclose that the pin extends through the case. Chang teaches an electrically conductive terminal pin extending through battery lid (see 6 in fig. 1). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to extend the terminal pin through the end cap of the battery of McHenry, as taught by Chang, for the benefit of extracting the current of the battery directly from the current collector instead of through the positive terminal.

Claims 27,80,83 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McHenry (US 3510353) as applied to claim 20, in view of Klein (US 4476624)

McHenry discloses all the elements of claim 20 and are incorporated herein. McHenry discloses a pin and a mandrel but does not disclose that the mandrel includes a tube with a slot in the tube; and winding the first electrode strip together with the second electrode strip includes inserting a drive key into slot, and employing the drive key to rotate the mandrel and the pin (claim 27). Klein teaches a novel mandrel comprised of an elongated longitudinally deformed metal strip and a compression element adapted to fit within the deformity of the metal strip. Preferably the metal strip is of a uniform enclosing configuration such as of a "U" or "C" shaped cross section and the compression element is preferably a solid plastic rod (applicant's claim 27 and 83). During the construction of the cell an electrode such as lithium with separator elements on both sides thereof is placed within the deformity with the compression element compressing and fixedly positioning the electrode into the deformity of the mandrel. The compression element is then locked into position such as by crimping the mandrel therearound to positively hold the electrode in place during subsequent winding (applicant's claim 67). With an anode metal electrode such as of lithium, a percut opening in the separator element adjacent the mandrel permits contact and cold welding between the anode metal and the mandrel during the compression step. Refer to 1:65-2:5). Klein teaches that It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the mandrel of McHenry, a u- or a

Art Unit: 1795

c-shape, as taught by Klein (1:36-37), for the benefit of tightly gripping the electrode during the winding of the battery.

McHenry discloses that the pin is inserted into the mandrel, but does not disclose that the mandrel slides onto the pin (applicant's claim 80). Klein teaches that an inserting element 20 (or pin) is lowered (or inserted) into the mandrel 10 (2:55-57). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to lower the pin into the mandrel of McHenry, as taught by Klein, for the benefit of easily inserting the pin into the mandrel.

Claim 28 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McHenry (US 3510353) as applied to claim 20, in view of Nemoto (US 6387561).

McHenry discloses all the elements of claim 20 and are incorporated herein. McHenry does not disclose that the mandrel includes a channel and injecting an electrolyte through the channel. Nemoto teaches that the electrolyte is injected through the hole 7 of the core 6. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to inject the electrolyte of McHenry through a hole through the core of the battery, as taught by Nemoto, for the benefit of distributing the electrolyte from the center. Distributing the electrolyte from the center of the battery would allow for even distribution of the electrolyte in a cylindrical can.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 26 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: Closest prior arts are McHenry and Klein. Neither prior arts disclose "welding mandrel to the pin". The mandrel and pin of McHenry are not welded because the pin is made of metal and the mandrel 13 is a plastic sleeve. The mandrel and pin of McHenry are not welded because the mandrel is the anode terminal and the pin is formed of plastic.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 3/26/2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that McHenry discloses providing electrical communication between an electrode strip and a pin after winding electrode strips together (emphasis added).

The examiner remains unpersuaded. It is noted that claim 20 does not contain specific limitation regarding which portion of the winding process the electrical communication is made between the first electrode and the pin. McHenry has been found to read on the instant claims despite Applicant's assertion that it does not. Refer to rejection above.

Accordingly, the Double Patenting Rejection is maintained.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cynthia Lee whose telephone number is 571-272-8699. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:30am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Susy Tsang-Foster can be reached on 571-272-1293. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 1795

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

ckl

Cynthia Lee

Patent Examiner

/PATRICK RYAN/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1795